Most Pitt schools climb in U.S. News ranking

With few exceptions, Pitt’s graduate programs rose in the most recent U.S. News & World Report rankings. The publication ranked the five main disciplines of business, education, engineering, law and medicine each year. Other disciplines are ranked on a rotating basis.

In its Best Graduate Schools 2015 guide, released March 11, U.S. News also ranked graduate programs in seven science areas: biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, earth sciences, mathematics, physics and statistics. These areas were last ranked in the publication’s 2013 Best Graduate Schools (for April 29, 2010, University Times).

The ranking methodology varies by discipline, but all are based on a combination of assessments by peers, test scores and other factors.

Business
Pitt’s Katz Graduate School of Business ranked No. 52 among 127 schools that provided sufficient data, up from No. 61 last year.

Harvard, Stanford and Penn
Pitt tied for No. 1 in business school rankings, followed by the Universities of Chicago and MIT.

Business schools were ranked based on assessments by peers and recruiters; placement success; mean starting salary and bonus; employment rates for full-time master’s program in business graduates, and student selectivity.

MBA specialty rankings
Among a dozen MBA specialties, Pitt’s part-time MBA program was ranked No. 53, up from No. 64 a year ago.

Specialty rankings were based on ratings by business school deans and directors of accredited master’s programs from among the schools surveyed. They could nominate up to 10 programs in each specialty area.

Education
Pitt’s graduate education programs rose to No. 22 (up from No. 32 a year ago), among 245 schools that provided sufficient data.

Education programs were ranked based on peer and superintendent assessment; student selectivity; faculty resources; student-faculty ratio; percentage of faculty with awards or selected education journal editorships; ratio of doctoral degrees granted per full-time faculty member, and research activity (including research expenditures and expenditures per faculty member).

Education specialist
Pitt was included in rankings for one of 10 education program specialties. The University’s educational psychology program was listed at No. 14. It ranked No. 13 a year ago.

Specialty ratings were based on nominations by education school deans and education school deans of graduate studies from the list of schools surveyed. They could nominate up to 10 top programs in each area.

Engineering
Pitt’s Swanson School of Engineering ranked No. 43 (up from No. 45) of 193 schools that provided the necessary data.

U.S. News ranked MIT, Stanford, University of California-Berkeley, California Institute of Technology and Carnegie Mellon as its top five.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Cybersecurity: Responsibility belongs to all of us, staff told

Just a dozen years ago, Jinx Walton, Pitt’s chief information officer, said, computer security “especially here at the University was not something we focused on.” Pitt employed only a half-time computer security person, and “a lot of his responsibility was changing our door locks,” she said.

Today, Computing Services and Systems Development (CSSD) has 10 full-time people working on firewalls, security monitoring, spam and virus filtering and much more. Spamming and hacking have “become more malicious now … there are these very sophisticated organizations that are responsible,” she noted.

“In the past few years the profits from cybercrime have exceeded the profits from drug crime.”

Walton’s keynote address, titled “Security: It Takes All of Us,” opened the Staff Association Council’s March 20 spring assembly, which had more than 120 people registered and also featured six sessions on ways to better use technology at work, covering the cloud, pitt.box.com, student record mysteries and other topics.

Universities are targeted because of the size and speed of their networks, Walton told the assembly.

Universities also often require open access, “so they quickly become … one of the first targets” for hacking. The number of new student accounts and alumni accounts each year, and the large variety of users to which a university’s network is put — academics, business and research — also make it more vulnerable.

All of Pitt’s 53,000 Internet user accounts were put behind network-based firewalls by January 2013, “and that is really the best defense,” she said. Last year Pitt blocked 364 million spam messages and 10 million viruses. Its 1,200 websites are the targets of web application attacks, “so our web infrastructure is constantly being scanned” by hackers looking for vulnerabilities. Last month alone there were 12,818 malicious attacks on Pitt websites and more than 384,000 scans by hackers, with 141,000 instances of potentially malicious traffic on Pitt’s residence hall networkalone, Walton said.

Overall, there have been 219 network breaches of higher-education networks by hackers since 2009, with 113 of them employing malicious software, or malware, most recently causing the exposure of personnel or student records at Indiana University and the University of Maryland.

Such breaches not only reveal personal information, but also, if they are of a university, can damage an institution’s reputation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
Most Pitt schools improve in U.S. News grad school ranking

Engineering programs were ranked on peer and recruiter assessments, student selectivity, faculty resources, student-faculty ratio, percentage of full-time faculty in the National Academy of Engineering, the number of doctoral degrees granted, and research activity (including total expenditure, research expenditures per faculty member).

Engineering specialties
Pitt graduate engineering programs were included in nine of a dozen engineering specialties; the Swanson school’s ranking fell in eight of the nine specialties:

- Biomedical engineering: No. 15 among 107 schools, up from No. 20
- Industrial/manufacturing/systems engineering: No. 23 among 87 schools, down from No. 21
- Chemical engineering: No. 39 among 156 schools, down from No. 38
- Mechanical engineering: No. 52 among 170 schools, down from No. 49
- Environmental/environ mental engineering: No. 55 among 100 schools, down from No. 53
- Materials engineering: No. 56 among 95 schools, down from No. 47
- Computer engineering: No. 58 among 143 schools, down from No. 50
- Electrical/electronic/communications engineering: No. 58 among 177 schools, down from No. 55, and
- Civil engineering: No. 61 among 145 schools, down from No. 55.

Specialty rankings were based on peer assessments by department heads in each specialty area.

Law
Pitt law school ranked No. 81 of 194 schools, tied with Rutgers. Last year, Pitt ranked No. 91.

Named as this year’s top five law schools were Yale, Harvard, Stanford and, tied for No. 4, University of Chicago and NYU. Law schools were ranked based on assessments by peers and law school deans, student selectivity, placement success, bar passage rate, faculty resources, peer-student expenditures, student debt, student-faculty ratio, and library resources. Only the American Bar Association were ranked.

Law specialties
A Pitt program was ranked in one of 10 law specialty areas. Pitt’s health law career program ranked No. 14, up from No. 13 last year. Specialty rankings were based on nominations by legal educators, who could name as many as 15 schools per field.

Medicine
Among 114 schools ranked, Pitt’s medical school ranked No. 15, up from No. 16 in last year’s ranking, and No. 18 in primary care (tied with Dartmouth and Indiana), up from No. 24 last year.

At the top of the research program rankings were Harvard, Stanford, Johns Hopkins and, tied for No. 4, University of California-San Francisco and Penn. Leading the primary care program rankings were Washington, University of Washington, Chicago, Chapel Hill, Oregon Health and Science University, University of California-San Francisco and University of Massachusetts-Worcester.

Medical school ranking methodology
Research program rankings were based on a weighted average of eight indicators, primary care rankings were based on seven. Both areas included selectivity (MCAT, GPA and acceptance rate), faculty-to-student ratio, assessments by peers and residency directors and, faculty committees.

Research activity (in the amount of National Institutes of Health grants to the school and its affiliated hospitals and average NIH grants per full-time faculty member) was factored into the research school rankings; the proportion of graduates entering primary care specialties was factored into primary care rankings.

Medical specialties
Pitt programs were ranked in five of eight specialty areas:

- Women’s health. No. 4, the same as a year ago,
- Pediatrics. No. 7, down from No. 6,
- Drug and alcohol abuse. No. 9 (tied with New York University, University of Washington and Washington University in St. Louis), up from No. 10 last year;
- Internal medicine. No. 16 (tied with Columbia, Washington University in St. Louis), up from No. 15.

Specialty rankings were based on ratings by medical school deans and senior faculty; each could name 10 schools in each area.

Sciences
Rankings of doctoral programs in the sciences were based on sur- vel survey in biologi- cal sciences, chemistry, computer science, earth sciences, mathemat- ics, and physical sciences.

Specialty rankings in the PhD sciences were based on nominations by peer schools, who could rank up to 10 programs in each area.

Biological sciences
Among 261 schools surveyed, Pitt tied for No. 42 with Carnegie Mellon, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and Tufts, Stanford, University of Oregon, University of Alabama-Birmingham and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

For the first time, No. 1 and Harvard and Stanford tied for No. 1, followed by University of California-Berkeley and California Institute of Technology rounding out the top five.

Pitt’s biological sciences graduate program was No. 46 in the U.S. News 2011 ranking.

Pitt’s programs were not ranked in any of the eight biologi- cal science specialty areas.

Chemistry
Among 205 surveyed schools, Pitt’s chemistry graduate program ranked No. 38 in the U.S. News 2011 ranking.

Pitt’s programs were not ranked in any of the eight chemical science specialty areas.

Computer science
Pitt tied for No. 52 with Indiana University-Bloomington, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and University of Rochester, among 177 schools surveyed.

In a four-way tie, Carnegie Mellon, MIT, Stanford and Uni- versity of California-Berkeley ranked No. 1, with the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign ranking No. 5.

Pitt’s computer science graduate pro- gram was No. 53 in the U.S. News 2011 ranking.

Pitt’s programs were not ranked in any of the four computer science specialty areas.

Earth sciences
Among 123 schools surveyed, Pitt’s Earth sciences graduate program ranked No. 51 in the U.S. News 2011 ranking.

Pitt’s programs were not ranked in any of the five earth science specialty areas.

Mathematics
Pitt tied for No. 60 with Arizona State, Northeastern, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Virginia Tech, of 174 schools surveyed.

No. 1 Princeton tied for No. 1, and Harvard and University of California-Berkeley tied for No. 3, and Stanford and Chicago tied for No. 5.

Pitt’s mathematics graduate program ranked No. 59 in the U.S. News 2011 ranking.

Pitt’s programs were not ranked in any of the seven math- ematics specialty areas.

Physics
Among 178 schools surveyed, Pitt tied for No. 50 with Arizona State, Iowa State and University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

The top five schools were: MIT at No. 1, followed by California Institute of Technology, Stanford, Princeton, Stanford and the Uni- versity of California-Berkeley tied for No. 2 in the U.S. News 2011 ranking.

Pitt’s physics graduate program ranked No. 52 in the U.S. News 2011 ranking.

Pitt’s programs were not ranked in any of the seven physics specialty areas.

Statistics
Pitt’s Department of Biostatis- tics tied for No. 47 with Michigan State and the University of Kansas, of 89 schools surveyed.

No. 1 Stanford tied for No. 1, followed by Harvard and University of California-Berkeley tied for No. 2, and Harvard and Washington tied for No. 3 and Johns Hopkins and Chicago tied for No. 5.

Pitt’s statistics graduate program ranked No. 59 in the U.S. News 2011 ranking.

—Kimberly K. Barlow
Staff and faculty attending Pitt Day in Harrisburg gathered before 6:30 a.m. (top left) to board buses for the event, arriving in Harrisburg about 10:30 a.m. (top right).

Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg was on hand to speak to the group at the reception that ended their day (middle right), as was Paul Supowitz, vice chancellor for community and governmental relations (bottom right). Legislative visits, including a meeting with Allegheny County state Rep. Dan Frankel (bottom left), lasted until 3 p.m.

The day also included a career workshop for students interested in entering government service or politics (second from bottom on left), featuring, from left, Val Corbin Ketchen, senior government affairs representative with Highmark Health Services and president of the Pitt Alumni Association club in Harrisburg; Adam Pankake, representing Sen. Gene Yaw; Stephanie Latimore, attorney with the Legislative Reference Bureau, and Matt Franchak, representing Sen. Mike Stack. All but Pankake are Pitt alumni.

Before starting their day, participants were armed with information packets to help them tell the Pitt story (second from top on left).

Photos by Tom Altany/CIDDE
Digitization forces a rethinking of civil society’s rules

A treacherous spot

Using the seashore as a meta-

Assessment, she said. “Think of analog civil society as land-based and digital civil society as water-based. Analog civil society runs on time and money. Digital civil society runs on time, money and digital data,” she said. While there are established rules on the analog side — structures like 501(c)(3) s and rules on making donations — they don’t exist for digital civil society. “The place where the water meets the land can both be beautiful and rather treacherous. And that’s where we are right now,” she said.

The issues

“We need to make sure that we can access all the digital spaces in which we want to take action,” she said. While the meeting places of the analog era — parks and village greens — were publicly funded, the digital spaces are under the control of private companies: social media networks, search engines and Internet backbones. “We’re operating in a different environ-

Examples

“#takeback -

As an example of the power of digital civil society, Bernholz recounted how eight people, spread across the United States, expressed their displeasure at the decision of breast cancer charity Susan G. Komen Foundation to quit providing grants to Planned Parenthood. “A group of people sitting on their sofas all over the country, with no paid staff, no central organ-

Yet libraries are leading the charge toward digitization of resources, Bernholz noted, citing them as good examples of the need to make the digital and analog worlds compatible: “We are inventing this,” she said. “If you’ve texted a donation, if you’ve shared information on your Facebook page or Twitter or through a text message to organize people to do something, you have participated in inventing digital civil society.”

“Keeping up with the times

While the Komen foundation board acted within the existing digital rules, it found itself pushed back by people thought of as support-

For more information, contact the Office of Affirmative Action. Diversity and Inclusion, 412 Bellefield Hall, (412) 648-7860.
Cybersecurity: Responsibility belongs to all of us, staff told

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Walton said Pitt employees also have been subject to ransomware, which locks computers until a fee is paid—and sometimes even when the fee is paid.

Phishing attacks, which ask users to click on a site that purports to be from an important or respected institution, such as your bank or the University itself, are a current problem about which Pitt often is sending out alerts, she noted.

Email messages may contain embedded viruses, trusted websites may be compromised by hackers and turn into gateways for attacks, and free wi-fi services, now so common in shops small and large, often allow unencrypted traffic, making them easy hunting grounds for hackers hoping to snag personal information.

“There’s really not one security practice that is going to protect us,” Walton added. The University has a multilayered approach.

Pitt’s network operations, located 10 miles off-campus in O’Hara Township, run around the clock all year long, with employees “looking for any type of anomaly,” blocking suspicious users and alerting departments about potential trouble. They look for suspicious activity such as multiple failed logins and simultaneous geographic logins (single accounts with attempted logins from several locales at the same time). They also limit the number of email messages an individual employee is allowed to send, to prevent hackers from using the University’s network speed to send spam or launch attacks on other networks.

Pitt also maintains central control over all its accounts, offering centralized email and web services and application monitoring, which Walton said is unusual for a large research university. This allows Pitt to enforce a requirement for frequent password changes, among other advantages. “Once we did that we really saw the number of compromises decrease,” she said.

CSSD also performs regular security scanning of the network, reviews security of Pitt’s third-party vendors and works with individual departments to review and create security plans and upgrade security controls. CSSD also helps ensure compliance with federal security regulations, particularly those required by agencies that grant research dollars. Soon, CSSD is hoping to roll out multifactor logins — a password and a personal device—for those who have regular access to highly sensitive information.

“What you can do

“...The truth is, when we look at how we’re securing the University, we’re happy with that, but honestly it takes all of you to help secure this environment,” Walton said.

She warned Pitt employees to be aware of older documents that used Social Security numbers, from performance reviews to lists of students’ grades, which may remain on computers and be vulnerable to exposure. She asked that employees notify CSSD if such information is found on their own computers, and to use protective software available from CSSD. She suggested that employees also increase their computers’ level of spam and virus filtering and avoid clicking on suspicious websites.

“If you have the slightest hesituation about a website, you have to go out there,” she said. And if you click on a link that turns out to be a phishing lure, “one of the things to do is let us know as soon as possible. When we look at all of the risks out there and how busy everyone is, it’s really understandable how you could mistake one of these as legitimate.”

She recommended using CSSD-provided software for protection. Computrace offers theft recovery services for laptops, tracing the location of a stolen computer and even allowing you to erase its contents from a distance, should such a measure be needed. PGP Whole Disk encrypts a hard drive, Secure Zip encrypts files, Symantec Endpoint Protection blocks viruses and malware that make it through University-wide protections, and Identity Finder discovers sensitive data on your computer. CSSD personnel distributed copies of the last three programs to assembly attendees on flash drives, since Pitt is licensed to allow employees to use the software on their home computers as well.

Walton also suggested employees read CSSD’s regular column in the University Times, called Tech Corner, and request department-specific briefings from CSSD’s information security officer Sean Sweeney and colleagues.

Mobile devices present new security issues for Pitt that are “nowhere near” as pervasive as those on older networked devices but are increasing, Walton said. Although she noted that there are too many “immature devices” (devices still in their early stages of development) to make it worthwhile for Pitt to obtain or distribute security measures right now, she urged mobile device users to be cautious. Downloaded apps may contain default settings that allow them to access users’ personal information, emails or location. Walton recommends changing app settings, backing up your data regularly, keeping your operating system current and using passwords to protect your devices.

Ensuring the security of Internet devices “has become harder and harder to do … as more and more things, even household appliances, become Internet capable.

“I won’t be the one asking you to upgrade the security on your toaster,” she said, “but that’s not too far-fetched.”

—Marty Levine

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The Staff Association Council (SAC) voted at its March 12 meeting to hold elections electronically in the future — and the organization has seen no shortage of elections since mid-2013, as committee leadership has been in flux.

“Tammeka Banks, in charge of the operations committee, was moved to fill newly vacant leadership at the head of the staff relations committee by a SAC vote, meaning her own position will need to be filled at SAC’s next meeting, in April.

The new election provision, which passed with one abstention and no objections, calls for nominations to be submitted exclusively via email. The election then will be done through SAC’s election portal on my.pitt.edu, with Computing Services and Systems Development tabulating the votes.

In the only comment about the change, SAC President Rich Colwell called it “a no-brainer.” Colwell had more doubts about the other bylaw change passed at the meeting, which requires prospective new members to attend an orientation conducted by all SAC officers and committee heads. The orientation, scheduled twice a year, allows SAC officials to explain their duties and offers a chance for the new SAC members to choose a committee on which to serve.

With orientation scheduled so infrequently, Colwell noted, “sometimes that can be a problem … if they missed, they have to wait to redo …”

“They’re on the waiting list for the next orientation…” Banks said. “…which could be six months,” Colwell noted.

Only two of 20 new members missed the previous orientation, Banks reported. The new rule, which had been in effect informally, passed with just a single abstention and no objections.

SAC also announced a brown bag seminar will be held May 20 on the topic of stress management.

—Marty Levine

**April food drive planned**

This year’s Pitt food drive, conducted in partnership with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, will run April 1-30.

Collection bins will be set in major buildings throughout the Pittsburgh campus. An online donation link at pittsburghfoodbank.org/pitt also will be available. All Pitt donations are matched by the American Heart Association.

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**Affordable Care Act session set**

The School of Social Work is hosting an Affordable Care Act information and sign-up session noon-6 p.m. March 24 in 2017 Cathedral of Learning. Enroll America, a national nonprofit with local offices, is reaching out to educate and enroll those who are in need of affordable health insurance.

The deadline for signing up for insurance is March 31.

**University of Pittsburgh Neurology**

**RESEARCH ASSOCIATE**

The Department of Neurology is seeking an experienced and highly motivated scientist interested in Parkinson’s disease to join an active research group within the Pittsburgh Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases at the University of Pittsburgh.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and letter of interest to:

Edward A. Burton, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology
7015 Biomedical Sciences Tower 3
3501 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
eab25@pitt.edu

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**Step Up, Step Out Corporate Wellness Challenge**

Partnering with the Pittsburgh Business Group on Health and the American Heart Association, the University of Pittsburgh is participating in a 10-week Corporate Wellness Challenge that tracks steps in a competition-style format. Activities counted are not limited to walking, Gardening, housework, golfing, and more are converted into steps and evaluated on a week-to-week basis. Learn how to increase physical activity in unique ways with fitness experts. Keep track of your steps to compete with coworkers and employees of companies nationwide.

**Did you know?**

- According to a Harvard University study, you will gain about two hours of life expectancy for each hour of regular exercise, no matter what age you begin.
- Brisk walking for as little as 30 minutes a day can bring heart health benefits and reduce your chances for a stroke by lowering bad cholesterol (LDL) levels and high blood pressure.
- By making physical activity part of your everyday life (e.g., walking at lunch, biking to work or playing basketball in your free time), you can begin to see other benefits, including:
  - Controlling your weight;
  - Managing stress;
  - Boosting energy levels;
  - Preventing bone loss.

**What are you waiting for?**

Sign up as an individual or with a team (must have five employees)! Join at any time. The program runs from April 2 – June 10.

**Upcoming Financial Seminar**

The Benefits Department, in collaboration with Vanguard, is offering a workshop entitled “Feeling Secure: Taking Control of Your Financial Life” as part of the faculty and staff development program. This interactive workshop is developed for faculty and staff who are interested in a comprehensive financial planning overview. Participants will be provided with an overview of several financial planning topics. The course begins with a discussion of the importance of taking control of your finances by determining your net worth, creating a spending plan and managing credit. This is followed by a detailed discussion of retirement investing that includes sections on basic terminology, appropriate asset mix, investment portfolio construction and explanations of the types of available retirement plans. The workshop concludes with a discussion of planning for the unexpected, with reviews of the role of estate and insurance planning. Details of the workshop follow:

- View test results and medical history for adults and children;
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- Request appointments;
- Pay bills or ask billing questions;
- Manage family health records;
- Track chronic conditions;
- Go mobile with an app for iPhone and Android devices.

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If you previously had a HealthTrak account, you can use your existing username and password. You can sign up for a new account by visiting MyUPMC.com and completing an online application. You will be asked to verify a series of questions to confirm your identity and upon successful verification of your identity, a MyUPMC access code will be given to you. If you have difficulties, please email help@myupmc.com or call the MyUPMC support line at 1-866/884-8579, option 2.

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MyUPMC, formerly known as UPMC HealthTrak, is the new, comprehensive way to connect to your health care. After accessing MyUPMC, you will be able to view outpatient medical information, communicate with your doctor, and have access to the UPMC Health Plan secure member website, MyHealth Online. MyHealth Online is a resource available in addition to MyUPMC and provides access to review your spending, see claims that have been paid, and links to a variety of tools to help you manage your health and health care.
B. Donker, Jean-Francois Mouillet, Tianjiao Chu, Avarah Banyer, Yinghui Duyang, Tianyi Wang, Donna B. Stolz, Saumendra Sarkar and Adrian E. Morelli.

The research team studied human trophoblast cells in the lab, exposing them to a panel of viruses. Unlike noncancerous cells, trophoblasts are resistant to viral infections, but that trait was not a result of an inability of viruses to bind or enter the cells. When the fluid in which the trophoblasts were cultured was transferred to noncancerous cells, such as those that line blood vessels, they became resistant to viral infection as well.

The team found that when the fluid was exposed to sound waves in a process called sonication, viral resistance no longer was transferred to noncancerous cells. This finding led them to take a closer look at exosomes, tiny spheres called nanovesicles that are secreted by trophoblasts and act as tiny sentinels to flag fragments of genetic material called microRNAs contained in trophoblasts as potential vaccines. The lab-synthesized mimics of them, were able to induce autophagy, a mechanism that eats up cell debris, recycling and survival. Blocking autophagy at least partially restored the cells’ vulnerability to viral infections.

The Cozzarelli Prize is named for the late PNAS editor-in-chief Nicholas R. Cozzarelli and acknowledges papers that reflect scientific excellence and originality.

The University Times Research Notes column is produced for the坑 Times by Pitt researchers and on findings arising from University of Pittsburgh research. We welcome submissions from all areas of the University. To submit information via email to: utimes@pitt.edu, by fax to 412/624-4579 or by campus mail to 308 Bellefield Hall.

For submission guidelines, visit www.utimes.pitt.edu/page/id:6807.

Researcher receives AHA fellowship

While the newest iteration of articularicular cartilage has advanced, one of the drawbacks is a high rate of failure associated with massive and massive bleeding. But engineers at the Swanson school are working on fundamental solutions using in artificial replacements to better prevent aneurysm formation as well as models for designing and building self-healing materials.

Arturo Valentin is the recipient of an American Heart Association (AHA) Great Rivers Affiliate postdoctoral fellowship for “A Predictive Computational Tool for Creating Tissue-engineered Arteries.” Valentin is a postdoctoral researcher with a focus on mechanical modeling at the Swanson school’s Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science.

Valentin notes that by studying the underlying biological mechanisms at work in neointima formation, researchers can develop a more effective graft that reduces risk of aneurysm. “This AHA fellowship will support our research to build replacement vessel materials advanced synthetic polymers as grafts that better treat patients who have undergone surgery and who must undergo cardiac bypass surgery,” he said.

Valentin believes that over the next several years his research will move to clinical trials in humans and ultimately help bring much improved artificial replacements to patients.

IS profs win best paper award

School of Information Sciences faculty member Beverly Lowen and Eleanor Mattern received the Lee Dirks Best Paper Award at the 2014 Conference for “Developing Design Interventions for Cyberbullying: A Narrative-based Participatory Approach.”

Co-authored with Cory Knobel and Gudrun Zieler, the paper was presented at the 2014 Conference for “Developing Design Interventions for Cyberbullying: A Narrative-based Participatory Approach.”

The team published its findings in the Journal of Human-Computer Interaction. The study shows excessive deer populations hurt native plant biodiversity

Senior authors Freddie Fu has an ongoing 18-month contract is for an 18-month period.

Co-authors for the paper who also will be honored include Eliza- dinal devices such as bone fixation plates and screws, as well as tracheal stents, will be produced in preparation for later clinical studies.

Researchers win Cozzarelli Prize

Researchers at the School of Medicine and the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine have been awarded the Cozzarelli Prize in the biomedical sciences. The team published its findings in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) that showed the cells of the placenta may have a unique ability to prevent tumors, using an expectant mother to her fetus and can transfer that trait to other kinds of cells.

Senior authors Yoel Sadowsky and Carolyn Coyne and their research team were honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on the National Academy of Sciences annual meeting on April 27 at a ceremony in Wash. D.C., on the National Academy of Sciences annual meeting.

Sadowsky serves as Elise Hillard Professor and chair of the Health Research, faculty member in the School of Medicine and McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, and faculty member in the Department of Biomedical and Molecular Genetics.

Co-authors for the paper who also will be honored include Eliza- dinal devices such as bone fixation plates and screws, as well as tracheal stents, will be produced in preparation for later clinical studies.

Researchers win Cozzarelli Prize

Researchers at the School of Medicine and the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine have been awarded the Cozzarelli Prize in the biomedical sciences. The team published its findings in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) that showed the cells of the placenta may have a unique ability to prevent tumors, using an expectant mother to her fetus and can transfer that trait to other kinds of cells.

Senior authors Yoel Sadowsky and Carolyn Coyne and their research team were honored at a ceremony in Wash. D.C., on the National Academy of Sciences annual meeting on April 27 at a ceremony in Wash. D.C., on the National Academy of Sciences annual meeting.

Sadowsky serves as Elise Hillard Professor and chair of the Health Research, faculty member in the School of Medicine and McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, and faculty member in the Department of Biomedical and Molecular Genetics.

Co-authors for the paper who also will be honored include Eliza-
Inhibiting chemical reactions to test Turing’s model: G. Bard Ermentrout, a faculty member in Pitt’s Department of Mathematics, undertook mathematical analysis of the experiments. The researchers observed all six patterns plus a seventh not predicted by Turing. In addition, they noticed that, as Turing theorized in the 1950s, the once identical cell-like structures, now chemically different, also began to change in size due to osmosis. This may explain how some cells, further down the development assembly line, become large egg cells or tiny sperm cells.

NIH grants for cancer research

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has renewed a grant of more than $2 million for Patrick Moore, director of the molecular virology program at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, to continue research into the newest human cancer virus causing most Merkel cell carcinomas. A team led by Moore and Yuan Chang discovered the Merkel cell polyomavirus in 2008, the seventh human cancer virus identified and the second discovered by Moore’s group under the original NIH grant that expires March 11. The new grant will fund the research through March 2019.

Moore, Chang and their colleagues identified a protein that allows the usually harmless polyomaviruses to transform healthy cells into Merkel cell carcinoma, a rare but deadly skin cancer. They hope their work — which emphasizes the importance of fundamental basic science research to medical progress — soon can be translated into human clinical trials.

High intake of fish oil may benefit cardiovascular health

Eating fish in amounts comparable to those of people living in Japan seems to impart a protective factor that wards off heart disease, according to an international study funded by NIH and led by the Graduate School of Public Health.

Middle-aged Japanese men living in Japan had a lower incidence of coronary artery calcification, a predictor of heart disease, than middle-aged white men living in the United States, likely due to the significantly higher consumption of omega-3 fatty acids found in fish. The findings were published in the March 6 issue of the journal Heart.

Marine-derived omega-3 fatty acids, which are found in fish, especially oily fish, as well as in squid and krill, may help to reduce inflammation and slow the formation of fatty plaques in arteries. Researchers at Pitt, including lead author and public health faculty member Akira Sekikawa, partnered with scientists in Japan, Europe and Philadelphia to follow nearly 300 men for five years, tracking multiple factors that affect cardiovascular health. These factors included cigarette smok-
PEOPLE OF THE TIMES

Senior Judge John M. Cleland of the McKean County Court of Common Pleas will address this year’s Pitt-Bradford graduating class. Cleland, who also is a member and past chair of UPB’s advisory board and a native of Kane, will deliver the keynote address during commencement exercises April 27 in the KOA Arena in the Richard E. and Ruth McDowell Sport and Fitness Center.

A Pitt faculty member was among the 2014 American Educational Research Association (AERA) fellows. Mary Kay Stein, a faculty member in the School of Education’s Department of Administrative and Policy Studies and at the Learning Research and Development Center, was one of 22 researchers selected.

Fellows are selected based on their research achievements. They will be inducted on April 4 at AERA’s annual meeting in Philadelphia.

Jennifer Engel is the new director of the Other Lifelong Learning Institute, housed in the College of General Studies. Engel most recently served as director of outcomes and performance management at the Sarah Heinz House (SHH), a Boys & Girls Club on Pittsburgh’s North Side. Throughout her 15-year career with SHH, she led and participated in numerous local, regional and national committees. Engel has served as the chair of the professional development committee for Allegheny Partners for Out of School Time (APOST), a group working toward professionalizing the after-school field.

Engel holds an MS in applied developmental psychology from Pitt’s School of Education.

Christopher A. Kirchhof, a faculty member in the Swanson School of Engineering, has been elected as the advising transfer student chair of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). Kirchhof will assume this role at the end of the NACADA annual conference in October and serve until October 2016.

NACADA promotes quality academic advising and professional development for its membership to ensure the educational development of students. The group has 10,000 members consisting of faculty members, professional advisors, administrators, counselors and others in academic and student affairs concerned with the intellectual, personal and vocational needs of students.

Georgia State University College of Law and its Center for Health, Health & Society have selected 10 faculty fellows to participate in its public health law education fellowship program. One of the award recipients is School of Law faculty member Elizabeth Bjerke. Bjerke teaches public health law and also is a faculty member in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Graduate School of Public Health. With the other fellows, Bjerke will help create a practice-based course related to preventive services under the Affordable Care Act.

At the recent Music Library Association’s annual conference in Atlanta, the MLA Citation was awarded to James P. Cassaro, a faculty member in Pitt’s Theodore M. Finney Music Library. The MLA Citation is the association’s tribute for lifetime achievement and is awarded in recognition of distinguished service to music librarianship over a career.

Cassaro has held many positions in MLA, including president, notes editor-in-chief, treasurer, fiscal officer and development officer.

Linda Siminerio, a faculty member in the School of Medicine and director of the University’s Diabetes Institute, has been appointed chairman-elect of the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP), a joint program of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Siminerio will serve as acting chair of NDEP starting in 2015.

English department faculty member Yona Harvey has received the Kate Tufts Discovery Award, which carries a prize of $10,000. The award is given annually for a first book by a poet of promise. Harvey is the author of the poetry collection “Hemming the Water.” Her work also has appeared in jubilat, Crab Orchard Review, Rattle and The Volta, among others.

This year’s awards ceremony will be held April 10.

Compiled by Alex Ottmanns

ARMS AND THE UNIVERSITY

Monday, March 24
4-5:30 p.m.
WPU Lower Lounge

Speakers:
Donald A. Downs
Alexander Meiklejohn Professor of Political Science, Law and Journalism,
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ilia Murtazzashvili
Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs,
University of Pittsburgh

Will be discussing their book Arms and the University
with responses from ROTC leadership and Pitt students

FIND OUT MORE AT cgs.pitt.edu/arms

• Do on-campus military programs help bridge the widening gap between civilians and the military?
• How has the relationship between the military and universities evolved from the Vietnam War to the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” era and the repeal of DADT?

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MARCH 20, 2014

11
Fifth Annual
AMY STINE WORKSHOP on Holistic Medicine

Saturday, April 12
Frick Fine Arts Auditorium

Program Schedule
8:15 Registration and Breakfast
8:45 Welcome and Remembrance
9:00 “Mindfulness Meditation - What is it? And Why is Everyone Talking About it?”
neen Garcia; 2201 Posvar, 10 am (cspo@pitt.edu)
ECE Workshop
“The 2nd Step: Developing a Business Plan,” 5 pm to 9 pm (RSVP: sik@katz.pitt.edu)
FUCE Policy Conf.
“Environment & Energy Comparison of US & EU Policies,” 9 am-6 pm
(Congress Hall, 9 am-noon (register: www.university.pitt.edu)
IEEE Workshop
“Do It Once, Do It Right: Building a Scalable Predictive Modelling Platform for Biomedical Research,” 1 pm to 3 pm
(Hillman Library, 1 pm-6 pm)

Friday 21
Middle States Commission on Higher Education: Town Hall Mtg.
“Characteristics of Excellence: Standards for Accreditation,” Renaissance Hotel, 107 6th St., Downtown, 9 am-noon (register: university.pitt.edu)

Psychiatry Clinical Grand Rounds
“Comprehensive Recovery Service,” WPIC nucle, noon

Saturday 22
Pitt/United Way Good Neighbor Day
10 am-3 pm (register: http://gcse.pitt.edu/community/good.html)
SIRS Open House
Forbes Tri., 10 am-1 pm

Social Work Health Insurance Events
“Get Covered America,” 2017 CL, noon-6 pm

Tuesday 25
Cell Biology Seminar
“Novel Insights Into the Biology & Pathophysiology of the Proopiomelanocortin Proteins,” Nahid Sefid, 520 E&EI, 11 am (sps-kort@pitt.edu)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11
Wednesday 26

Orthopaedic Surgery Grand Rounds
Juang Giugale; LHAS aud. Monday, 7 am (moenichrj@upmc.edu)

Clinical Oncology & Hematology Grand Rounds
“Genes That Govern Lipid Homeostasis to Balance Reproduction & Aging.” Arjumand Ghazi, Children’s; 1:30 pm (3-7757)

IEE Workshop
“Urban Power to Proser: Program Positioning Your Business Within a Competitive Landscape.” UGClub, 5:45-8:45 pm (8-1444)

CIDDE TA Workshop
“Developing a Lesson Plan.” 815 Alumni, 6 pm (www.cidde.pitt.edu/workshops)

Thursday 27

Renal Electrolyte Symposium
“Nephrotic Syndrome in Pediatric Patients: Clinical Challenges & Evidence-Based Management.” Rangos aud., 7 am-5 pm (cmn97@upmc.edu)

MIR Video Conference
“The View From Ukraine: A Digital Video Conference With US Embassy in Kyiv.” 9am (www.ucis.pitt.edu/mir)

HSLS Postdoc Talk
“How to Analyze Protein Expression in Cell Culture & Tissue Specimens.” Sandra Cascio; Falk Library classroom 2, 10 am-noon (mcmannr@pitt.edu)

Molecular Biophysics/Structural Biology Seminar
Mark Yeager, UVA, 604 BST, 11 am

Pathology Seminar
“Mitochondrial Dynamics in Cell Death: A Tale of Two Mitochondria.” Zheng Dong, Medical College of GA; 11:40 Scalf; noon

Artful Wednesdays Performance
Umoja; Nordy’s WPU, noon (pittarts@pitt.edu)

HSLS Workshop
“Microarray Data Analysis,” Uma Chandran; Falk Library classroom 2, 1:45 pm (amurthy@pitt.edu)

CIDDE TA Workshop
“Charging & Pharmaceutics,” B26 Alumni, 1 pm

Chemistry Lecture
“Vibrational Stark Spectroscopy Connects Electrostatics to Catalytic Rates at Enzyme Active Sites.” Steven Roper, Stanford; 150 Chevron, 2:10 pm

Thursday 27

CIDDE TA Workshop
“Developing a Teaching Philosophy Statement”; 61 Alumni, 11 am (www.cidde.pitt.edu/workshops)

ADRC Lecture

Office of Academic Career Development Forum
“2014 Women in Medicine & Science,” 110 f Scalf, 12:10 pm (also March 28 at 11:30 am; register: oacd@pitt.edu)

Chemistry Seminars
“Significance of New Approaches: How Unpoling Translated Tribute Into Cyanocarbenes,” Mitchell Croatt, UHC-Greensboro, 2:10 pm; “New Molecules & Materials for Studying Carbohydrate Recognition,” Amit Basu, Brown, 4pm; 150 Chevron (www.chem.pitt.edu)

Law Review Symposium
“Challenging Authority: An Symposium in Honor of Dorrick Bell,” roundtable discussions, Allos Bina, Barco, 2:30 pm; reception & opening lecture, Charles Ogletree, Harvard, Barco, 6-9 pm (also March 28, UClub, 2:30 pm; “New Molecules & Materials for Studying Carbohydrate Recognition,” Amit Basu, Brown, 4pm; 150 Chevron (www.chem.pitt.edu)

Geology/Planetary Science Colloquium
“Climate: Anthropogenic Feedbacks to Atmospheric Methane Emissions,” Amy Townsend-Small, U of Cincinnati, 11 Thaw, 1:45 pm

UHC Lecture

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UHC Lecture
“Making a Difference in Climate Change Discourse: The UN &/or Popular Movements,” Robert Orr, UN Inst. of Training & Research, O’Hara, 4 pm
Monday 31

Promot Inaugural Lecture
“SOS: Mitochondrial Distress Signals in Parkinson’s Disease,” Charleen Chu, neurogenopathologist, Scaife lst. rm. 6. 4 pm

Thursday 3

Molecular Biophysics/Structural Biology Seminar
Andrew Van der Mark; 6014 BST, 11 am

Emerging Legends Concert
Squilled Hillbillies, Cup & Chann-

Thursday 3

Healthcare and global economy
Misha Schwartz, Grattan; March 26, 622 Crabtree, 8:30 am

SHRS/Occupational Therapy
“Examining the Effects of a Repetitive Task Practice Program Among Individuals With Uni-

 Willie Pitt Union Assembly Room
3959 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh
MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2014
8 – 9 pm
WILLIAM PITT UNION ASSEMBLY ROOM
3959 FIFTH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH
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• For more information, call Barbara DelRaso, 412/624-4644.

EXHIBITS

Barco Law Library
“Gardens of Repose” by Larry Hankowitz; through May 16, M-Th 7:30 am-10 pm, F 7:30 am-6 pm, Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun noon-8 pm

Hillman Library
“Oakland: A Look Back Over the 20th Century”; Hillman gr. fl., through Aug. 8, Sun 10 am-F 10 pm & Sat 9 am-10 pm

THEATRE

Greensburg Campus Night of Magic
“A Very Potter Musical”; April 1-5, Ferguson Theatre, UPG, 7:30 pm

Theatre Arts Production
“Indecent Heights”; March 27-April 6, Charity Randall Theatre, Tu-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2 pm (www.play.pitt.edu/content/heights)

DEADLINES

Ethical Issues in Pain Management Conf.
Registration deadline March 28 for April 4 conf. (https://ceehs.upmc.edu/ceehsformalcourses.jdf)

NIH Women’s Health Training Grant

Amy Stine Workshop on Holistic Medicine
Registration deadline April 5 for April 12 event. (cin@upmc.edu)

Clinical & Translational Research Training Opportunities
Application deadline is April 15. (www.icre.pitt.edu/degree/admissions_degrees.html)

Annual Conflict of Interest Disclosure Forms
Deadline is April 15. (www.coi.pitt.edu or 412/383-2828)

 burroughs Wellcome Fund 2015 Career Awards for Medical Scientists
Preliminary applications due by June 16. (www.bwhf.pitt.edu/searchfunding/ShowNomina-
tion.aspx?nominationId=10775)

Burroughs Wellcome Fund 2015 Career Awards for Medical Scientists
Nomination deadline May 2 to the University Senate office, 1214 CL. (8-7600)

Chancellor’s Affirmative Action Award
Nomination deadline May 2 to the University Senate office, 1214 CL. (8-7600)

Event Deadline
The next issue of the University Times will include University and on-campus events of April 1-17. Information for events during that period must be received by 5 pm on March 27 at 308 Bellefield Hall. Send information to utcal@pitt.edu.

THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

“Higher Education in 21st Century America: The Promise and the Pain”
Featuring University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg
Monday, March 24, 2014, 7:30 p.m.
University Club, Ballroom B
123 University Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Seating is limited, and registration is required. RSVP today at www.thornboroughforum.pitt.edu.

For more information or to be added to the Thornborough Forum e-mail news list, contact Kimberly Carson at kac15@pitt.edu.

Suggested Parking:
Soldiers & Sailors garage, entrance on Bigelow Boulevard

This lecture is cosponsored by the Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy and the University Honors College.

This event is free and open to the public.

University of Pittsburgh
Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy
Dick Thornburgh Room, Hillman Library
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Thursday, April 3

Also next issue:

Senate presidential candidate Q&A

Incumbent University Senate President Michael Spring & challenger Alexandre R. Vieira respond to questions posed by the University Times.